
Subject: IDL 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1
Posted by [James\[2\]](#) on Tue, 16 Nov 2010 01:29:57 GMT
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Hi Friends,

I just installed IDL 8, and it's using 334 MB of memory for the Workbench, compared to 114 for the IDL 7.1 Workbench. This is causing some problems for me, since I am forced to run IDL in 32-bit mode to use my external C functions, and I run out of memory.

I was wondering if anyone else is experiencing this phenomenon, and if there is any way to reduce memory consumption by the Workbench.

Subject: Re: IDL 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1
Posted by [codepod](#) on Thu, 28 Apr 2011 14:50:20 GMT
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On Apr 27, 7:26 pm, JP <guersch...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> I've been reading a bit about the memory issues with IDL8 in windows including David's article in http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc_tips/idl8mem.html
> I still have problems doing what he suggested. Should I go back to 7.x until ITT resolves this?
>
> cheers
>
> JP

IDL 8.1 separated the DE and the underlying IDL process, reverting to the previous structure and providing more free memory to IDL. As part of this effort, the process communication between the DE and IDL was also rewritten to increase stability and interactive performance.

8.1 was released a few weeks ago.

-K

Subject: Re: IDL 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1
Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Thu, 28 Apr 2011 15:06:09 GMT
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In order to reduce the memory footprint of the IDL workbench, find the following file based on the location of your 8.0 installation directory:

C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\bin\bin.x86\idlde.ini

Open that file in a text editor and it should look something like this:

```
-vm  
C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\bin\bin.x86\jre\bin  
-vmargs  
-Xms256M  
-Xmx768M  
-XX:MaxPermSize=128m
```

The important lines are:

```
-Xms256M  
-Xmx768M
```

The -Xms parameter tells the workbench how many megs of RAM to allocate at startup and the -Xmx parameter tells the workbench how many megs of RAM it can grow to (should be equal to or larger than the -Xms setting). You can reduce these numbers to solve your problem.

I would not recommend reducing them lower than:

```
-Xms128M  
-Xmx128M
```

however since the workbench needs at least 128 megs to run properly without hiccups.

Cheers,
Scott

Subject: Re: IDL 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1
Posted by [JP](#) on Fri, 29 Apr 2011 01:07:32 GMT
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thanks Code Pilot, I'll try and install 8.1.

Subject: Re: IDL 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1
Posted by [JP](#) on Fri, 29 Apr 2011 01:10:39 GMT
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the idlde.ini is set to

-vm
C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\bin\bin.x86\jre\bin
-vmargs
-Xms128m
-Xmx128m
-XX:MaxPermSize=128m

but i still have memory problems.

cheers

JP

Subject: Re: IDL 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1
Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Tue, 03 May 2011 15:33:10 GMT
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If you edited the right file and restarted then the IDL Workbench process should now be consuming no more than 128M of ram on your machine. Can you confirm that? What kind of "memory problems" are you having now?
